

Everyone benefits from managing access to highways

- Drivers making both local and through-trips travel on highways that are not congested and complicated by unplanned access.
- The owners and users of adjacent properties have safer access to and from those properties.
- Developing areas benefit when the need for access to adjacent property is balanced with the need for movement of through-traffic.
- Taxpayers save money because the existing highways are able to carry more traffic, often eliminating or delaying the need for the construction of additional lanes or a relocation of the highway.

Good access management can:

reduce crashes and crash potential,

preserve roadway capacity and the useful life of roads,

decrease travel time and congestion,

improve access to properties,

coordinate land use and transportation decisions,

improve air quality, and maintain travel efficiency and related economic prosperity.

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**MANAGING
ACCESS TO
MISSOURI'S
HIGHWAYS**



**Missouri Department of
Transportation**

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Managing access provides safer, more efficient travel.

Highway access management means planning the number and location of driveways and intersections to help maintain safe, efficient movement of traffic and to provide safer access to and from adjacent property.

It is a tool to help keep highways from becoming too congested to move traffic safely while still providing adequate access to adjacent lands.

Access management helps keep things moving.

Everyone has experienced the frustrations and dangers of driving on a highway where driveways are too close together. Whether these driveways lead to businesses, farms or residences, vehicles turning onto and off of a highway can create safety hazards for both through traffic and for the turning vehicles themselves.

While growth and development are usually good for area economies, they often result in too many access points located too close together. As a result, traffic congestion increases, conflicts between land use and highway traffic grow, accidents increase, owners become frustrated and property values may fall as some owners move away. Speed limits may have to be lowered to allow traffic to flow more smoothly.

Ultimately, the highway may even have to be relocated as the only way to restore safe and efficient operations and well-spaced highway access.

Access management can be used to help prevent such changes.

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) manages access by:

- **Purchasing access rights** along with the right of way needed for highway projects.
- **Designating** controlled access highways on which access management is used. Future alterations to the access then requires MoDOT approval. (Administrative Method)
- **Constructing relocated highways** to which no rights of access exist.
- **Working cooperatively with local units of government** to review development plans; to establish local land use/access management plans for state highway corridors; and to create alternative access to state highways via the local road network.
- **Engaging in other activities** that help manage access to the state highway system. These include: reviewing subdivision plats for lands that abut state highways; developing access covenants to limit the number of accesses to a highway and issuing permits for new driveways onto state highways.

Purchasing access rights

When a new construction project requires additional right of way. Access rights may be purchased to manage the points of access. Access rights are occasionally purchased from parcels adjacent to the highway even though no land is being purchased.

Designating controlled access administratively

When there is no construction project planned in the near future for an area but potential development or rezoning along the highway indicates that access pressures may begin to occur, MoDOT can designate controlled access highways by using the administrative method of control.

To establish administrative control MoDOT will:

1. Analyze traffic and accident data, along with driveway locations, on the highway in question.
2. Meet with county and local officials to explain the access management plans for the highway.
3. Meet with individual property owners to explore what access modifications might be necessary.
4. Hold a public hearing so all parties can present their opinions.
5. Review all information and determines appropriate action.
6. Prepare legal documents as required and record them with the County Recorder of Deeds.
7. Notify individual property owners by mail.
8. Make any required driveway modifications and removal at no cost to property owners.

Controlled accesses can be changed

In areas where access is controlled, MoDOT may alter access in response to changing traffic conditions and new development.